

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01  
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15  
USIA-06 ACDA-12 OMB-01 TRSE-00 IO-13 SSM-03 /100 W  
-----045815 301853Z /41

P 301827Z MAR 78

FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5787

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY OSLO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY CAIRO PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRUSSELS 06289

ALSO FOR USEC PRIORITY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PEPR XF BE

SUBJECT: ARAB DEMARCHE TO EC AND BELGIAN GOVERNMENT

1. DCM OF EGYPTIAN EMBASSY (ZAKI) CALLED ON DCM ON MARCH 30 TO INFORM HIM THAT EGYPT HAS LAUNCHED A VIGOROUS EFFORT TO SECURE AN EC DENUNCIATION, IN THE WAKE OF THE BEGIN TRIP TO WASHINGTON, OF ISRAELI INTRANSIGENCE. EGYPT -- BACKED BY FRIENDLY ARAB GOVERNMENTS -- IS ASKING FOR A STRONG EC STATEMENT TO EMERGE FROM THE EC POLITICAL CONSULTATION IN COPENHAGEN APRIL 7-8.

2. ZAKI SAID THAT THE EGYPTIAN AMBASSADOR HERE, FLANKED BY THE AMBASSADORS OF ALGERIA, SYRIA AND SAUDI ARABIA  
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(REPRESENTING "ALL" ARAB COUNTRIES, HESAID) HAD CALLED ON FOREIGN MINISTER SIMONET MARCH 24. HE SAID THAT THE JOINT DEMARCHE HAD MADE THE POINTS: (1) THE HARD BEGIN POSITION MADE PROGRESS TOWARD MIDEAST PEACE IMPOSSIBLE, (2) THE EC SHOULD ISSUE A STATEMENT IN COPENHAGEN DENOUNCING THE BEGIN STAND, (3) IF THE NINE SAT SILENT, THEY WOULD BE GIVING TACIT ENCOURAGEMENT TO ISRAEL AND WORKING

AGAINST THE PROSPECTS FOR A PEACE AGREEMENT. HE SAID THAT THIS DEMARCHE WAS FOLLOWED UP EARLY THIS WEEK WITH A SIMILAR CALL ON EC COMMISSION PRESIDENT JENKINS "AND OTHERS."

3. ZAKI SAID THAT SIMONET SAID THAT THE NEAR EAST SITUATION WAS NOT FORMALLY ON THE COPENHAGEN AGENDA, BUT HE WAS CERTAIN IT WOULD BE "THE MAIN TOPIC OF DISCUSSION" THERE BY THE NINE. SIMONET SAID HE PERSONALLY WAS SYMPATHETIC TO THE ARAB CASE, AND HE THOUGHT THE NINE WOULD EMERGE WITH SOME SORT OF STATEMENT ALTHOUGH NOT THE RINGING DENUNCIATION THE ARABS HOPED FOR. ZAKI SAID THAT HIS AMBASSADOR WARNED THAT AN EVEN-HANDED STATEMENT THAT PUT NO PRESSURE ON ISRAEL WAS AS GOOD AS NONE AT ALL.

4. ZAKI SAID HE HAD FOLLOWED UP THIS WEEK WITH THE BELGIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY AT THE WORKING LEVEL AND WAS TOLD THAT THE ASSESSMENT THERE OF THE SITUATION WITHIN THE NINE WAS THAT A STATEMENT REALLY HARD ON ISRAEL WAS AT BEST A REMOTE POSSIBILITY. ZAKI ASKED WHETHER THE USG HAD EXPRESSED ITS VIEWS TO THE EC ON THE MATTER.

5. WE REPLIED THAT WE WERE NOT AWARE OF ANY SUCH INITIATIVE ON THE USG. ZAKI ASKED WHETHER THE US AGREED THAT HEAVY PSYCHOLOGICAL PRESSURE FROM EUROPE UPON ISRAEL WOULD BE HELPFUL AT THIS JUNCTURE. WE SAID WE WERE NOT CONFIDENTIAL

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CLOSE ENOUGH TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF US THINKING ON THE SITUATION TO VENTURE A COMMENT. HE SAID HE HOPED THE US WOULD WEIGH IN HARD BECAUSE EGYPT WAS NOW IN A POSITION WHERE ONE MORE STEP IN THE DIRECTION OF CONCESSION TO ISRAEL WOULD BE "MORE THAN WE COULD BEAR." CHAMBERS

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** DEMARCHE, POLICIES, PEACE, REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, NEGOTIATIONS  
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**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**TAGS:** PEPR, XF, BE, EG, IS, EEC  
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